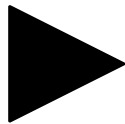

Bill Nye: Race is a Human Construct

The Science Guy explores the social lessons to be learned from evolution. Paramount is that race, both as a classification for humans and dogs, is not a natural construct.

(//bigthink.com/community/bigthinkeditor)

(//BIGTHINK.COM/COMMUNITY/BIGTHINKEDITOR) 03 January, 2015

Bill Nye the Science Guy (<http://bigthink.com/experts/bill-nye>) returned to Big Think to discuss (<http://bigthink.com/videos/bill-nye-on-the-evolution-of-dogs>) canine evolution and, by way of man's best friend, various lessons he learned while writing his new book, *Undeniable* (<http://www.amazon.com/Undeniable-Evolution-Creation-Bill-Nye/dp/1250007135>):



After joking about interviewing dogs for the new book, Nye began a dissection of the purebreed myth:

“

"We obsess about whether our dog is a pug-Jack Russell terrier mix with corgi overtones and an oaky finish. 'An approachable little dog,' whatever. They're all dogs, okay? And so the idea of a purebred is just a human construct. There's no such thing – in a sense there's no such thing as a purebred dog."

This is one of the main lessons Nye hoped readers and viewers would take away from his analysis of dogs and evolution. No matter what kinds of dog mate -- pug with a chihuahua, Great Dane with a dachshund, whatever -- the result is still a dog. There is no variance in

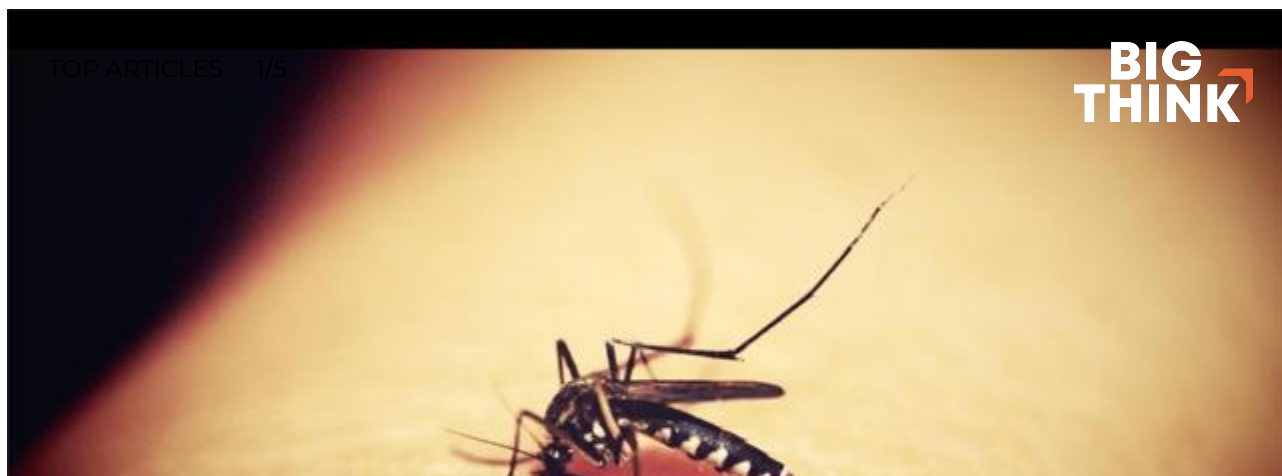
species. Years of breeding and evolution have resulted in a broad spectrum of dogs that look different from their proto-dog ancestors and certainly different from each other. But underneath it all they're still just dogs.

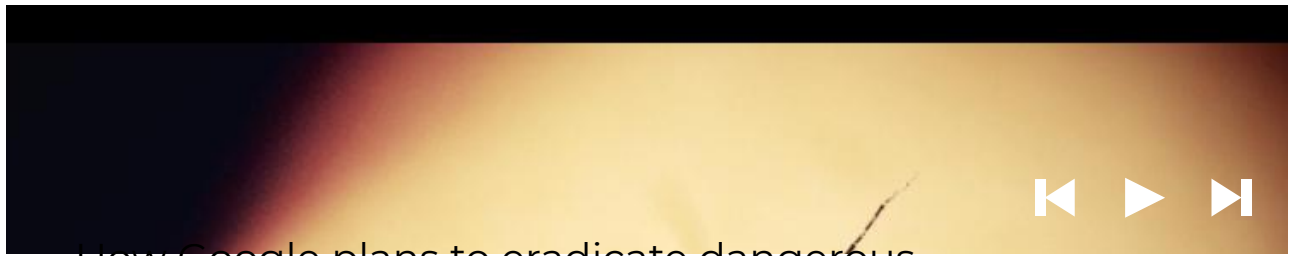
The same can be said for humans. Race, just like breed, is a human construct:

— “ —
— ” —

"If a Papua New Guinean hooks up with a Swedish person all you get is a human. There's no new thing you're going to get. You just get a human. Japanese woman jumping the African guy, all you get is a human. They're all humans. So this is a lesson to be learned. There really is, for humankind there's really no such thing as race. There's different tribes but not different races. We're all one species."

This isn't a groundbreaking idea (<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/682047?sid=21105561295443&uid=4&uid=2&uid=3739256&uid=3739584>) in any way; sociologists and political scientists have argued over race for years (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/evolution/does-race-exist.html>). What's notable here though is that Nye is not making his claims from the platform of sociology. Instead, he's analyzing hard scientific evidence from a biological perspective. His argument that race doesn't exist is supported not by conjecture but through evolutionary evidence.





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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30B3879020I Human%20Construct&list=PL4F042F9530B3879020I

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Americans say we value free speech, but recent surveys suggest we love the ideal more than practice, a division that will harm more than it protects.

by **Charles Koch Foundation** 14 November, 2018

(<https://bigthink.com/Charles-Koch-Foundation/forced-examination-how-the-free-speech-of-others-benefits-us-all>)

Photo: Getty Images

- A majority of Americans believe we should protect people from deleterious ideas and speech.
- This belief may harm us, both as individuals and as a society, by ironically strengthening the very ideas that do us harm.
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Turn on, tune in, and drop out and into a good psychedelic book.

by **Mike Colagrossi** 28 November, 2018

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Study: Memories of music cannot be lost to Alzheimer's and dementia (<https://bigthink.com/news/ever-get-the-tingles-from-listening-to-good-music-that-part-of-your-brain-will-never-get-lost-to-alzheimers>)

The part of your brain responsible for ASMR catalogs music, and appears to be a stronghold against Alzheimer's and dementia.

by **Ned Dymoke** 29 April, 2018

(<https://bigthink.com/news/ever-get-the-tingles-from-listening-to-good-music-that-part-of-your-brain-will-never-get-lost-to-alzheimers>)

The parts of the brain highlighted in red and yellow are thought to control your sense of attention and memory. (image c/o Brain Network Lab)

Some music inspires you to move your feet, some inspires you to get out there and change the world. In any case, and to move hurriedly on to the point of this article, it's fair to say that music moves people in special ways.

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Why spiritualizing the cosmos is a disservice to science and religion (<https://bigthink.com/videos/where-is-god-science-religion-astronomy>)

Where is God? Michelle Thaller lays out a cosmic view of religion, science, and the human condition.

by **Michelle Thaller** 29 November, 2018

content.jwplatform.com (<https://content.jwplatform.com/players/xl0RNdjo-qKoDmz4y.js>)

- Ancient humans believed lightning, seasons, and other unexplainable natural phenomenon were the acts of gods, but what happens when scientific discovery unravels those mysteries?
- NASA astronomer and science communicator Michelle Thaller explains how scientific discovery has changed the search for God, and that religion may be something that happens between people, if they choose, rather than out there in the cosmos.
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